

We wish you peace, health & prosperity in the new year!

Hold your  
breath!!!  
WAITING TO  
EXHALE  
movie review  
and poll  
Lifestyles page 6

Volume 12, Number 14

Serving The Greater Metropolitan Newark Area Since 1983

January 10 - 16, 1996

# CELEBRATING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by attending the following area events.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1996

NEWARK—The R.E.A.L. Black Unity League presents "The Battle Must Be Joined" with the Youth on Youth Coalition organizing local committee representatives. This will take place at the 5-11th Ward Civic Association (Little King, Jr.) 1089-1091 Bergen Street, Newark, NJ at 7:00 p.m. For more information and directions call 201-242-4912.

PLAINFIELD—Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. presents the video, "King From Memphis to Montgomery," free at the Hubbard Middle School at W. 8th Street at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1996

NEWARK—The Newark Municipal Council is holding a commemorative celebration from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Centre, Inc., 23-25 Elizabeth Avenue, Newark, NJ, to celebrate the life of the late Supt. of Public Works. The program will feature an address about the legacy of Dr. King as well as light refreshments and entertainment. There is no charge and access will be limited. You must RSVP by calling 201-733-4241.

## AARP EXEC DEETS BLASTS BUDGET

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) believes the bill passed today by the U.S. House of Representatives to balance the federal budget by the year 2002 puts the health and pensions of all Americans at risk. There are better ways to balance the budget.

Two provisions in the bill will have a serious impact on the health and pension security of all Americans. One calls for major cuts to Medicaid and the other puts pressure on risk by allowing companies to raid pension funds without penalty.

The balanced budget package calls for cutting \$170 billion from Medicaid over the next seven years. AARP is very concerned about such devastating cuts because Medicaid is many Americans' sole protection against the high cost of long-term care.

Medicaid was enacted 30 years ago as a partnership between federal and state governments to serve the country's most vulnerable populations. While AARP supports some greater flexibility in that partnership, blanket granting the Medicaid program goes too far. It jeopardizes important federal consumer, health, safety, and financial protections designed to help older Americans.

For low-income older Americans who cannot afford Medicare's premium and co-insurance, Medicaid helped fill the gaps. The House bill includes funding to help pay for Medicare premiums, but it does not appear to be enough to cover all older Amer-

## BROWN COMES OUT SWINGING FOR NEW JERSEY TAXPAYERS

TRENTON—Calling the decision to deny boxing promoter Don King the opportunity to hold the Mike Tyson-Buster Mathis fight in Atlantic City a "travesty and a farce," State Assemblyman William B. Brown (D-Essex and Union Counties), has requested Governor Christine Todd Whitman to direct the State Attorney General to launch an investigation into how the decision by the state's Division on Gaming was reached.

On November 27, 1995, the state's Division on Gaming recommended that the Casino Control Commission that since Don King was involved in promoting the Tyson-Mathis heavyweight fight and since King was on indictment for wire fraud in his ban on Don King promoting fights in Atlantic City casinos should remain in force.

In a letter to Governor Whitman, Assemblyman Brown expressed concern that "under-influences" may have played a role in the decision making process of the state's Division of Gaming.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1996

PLAINFIELD—The Neighborhood House Association presents, "A Martin Luther King, Jr. City Wide Celebration," featuring entertainment and soul food sampling. The event will be held at the Neighborhood House, 641 W. 4th Street at 7:00 p.m. \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students and seniors.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

PLAINFIELD—The Central Jersey Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. presents "Living the Dream: An Artists Tribute," featuring the MLC Players, PHS Choir and other performers. The event is being held at the Black United Fund Complex Center, 403 W. 7th St. from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children and seniors (free under 5 years).

PLAINFIELD—A program for seniors honoring the birthday of Martin Luther King will be at 10:30 a.m. at the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center, 305 East Front Street. Members will share music, poetry and a special presentation by Union County storyteller Denise Howell. There are special prizes in multicultural stories designed for children of all ages. The event is free and scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Plainfield Library located at the corner of Park Avenue and West 8th Street. For more information call Horace Baldwin at 908-388-6224.

PLAINFIELD—A birthday party, complete with cake, will be held in honor of Martin Luther King's Birthday at 5:00 p.m. in Plainfield Public Library on Eighth Street and Park Avenue. Participants will bring a picture, poem or prose to share in honoring Dr. King leader. The family oriented program is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. For information

call the Young People's Room at the Plainfield Public Library at 908-757-1111.

NEWARK—The People's Organization for Progress (POP) Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday observance is being held from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Newark Public Library, Continental Hall, 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ. Guest speaker: Lawrence Hamm, Chairman POP and State Chairman, NJ Million Man March Coalition. The theme is Dr. King's Legacy and the Million Man March. Leadership award recipients to be honored are C. Stephen Jones, Executive Director, Metropolitan Educational Ministry and also Minister Abdul Khadir Muhammad, Nation of Islam Mosque No. 25, and co-Chairman, NJ Million Man March Coalition. For further information call 201-643-7711.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1996

PLAINFIELD—The Phi Kappa chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. will present a program entitled: "Never Stop Learning." The program will feature music, poetry and a special presentation by Union County storyteller Denise Howell. There are special prizes in multicultural stories designed for children of all ages. The event is free and scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Plainfield Library located at the corner of Park Avenue and West 8th Street. For more information call Horace Baldwin at 908-388-6224.

JERSEY CITY—A memorial tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center Auditorium of the Millersville Library at 499 Bergen Avenue, J.C. NJ. See KING/page 8

## CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JANUARY 11, 1996

by Lynn D. Johnson

On August 28, 1963, the Civil Rights Bill received a stirring mandate. Two hundred and fifty thousand people marched to the Lincoln Memorial. They were black and white, rich and poor, educated and non-educated, celebrities and everyday people. The throng swayed to "We Shall Overcome," which came to be known as the anthem of the movement.

This event was the pinnacle of what began in December 1955 as the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The boycott was directed by the Montgomery Improvement Association, with Dr. King as its president. Bus integration was granted in December 1956, opening up the doors for more movement against discrimination. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference was formed as a grass-roots movement of people in peaceful confrontation. King believed that non-violent civil disobedience was the most powerful weapon for confronting discrimination.

Voter registration drives and student sit-ins were the out of the See LEGACY/page 2



## Heating stoves claim four children in two fires

by Kelly Howard

PLAINFIELD—The saddest thing that can happen to a family is to lose a child. Unfortunately, two sets of parents had to deal with this tragic occurrence during this past holiday season. One of the two separate fires four children died and another was injured. These sad occurrences place a serious emphasis on the importance of fire safety when using heating stoves and space heaters. Additional heating unit during these cold winter months.

The first of the two fires occurred at the Edwards' household in the early evening hours on Saturday, December 16, at 622 W. Third Street. According to the Plainfield Fire Chief Henry LaRiccia, the fire started when one of the three children in the household was playing near the open and lit stove/oven, with either a toy or piece of clothing.

When the item began to smolder, the child dropped it onto a bed in a first floor bedroom, where it began to burn, setting the house on fire. The children went upstairs to tell their father and stayed there when he proceeded downstairs to check on things. It is stated that the smoke and flames were too hot and thick

for the father to get back upstairs to the children.

Of the three children, Shaka Edwards, male, 3, and Tacie Edwards, male, 12, were killed due to arrival at the hospital of thermal injuries and smoke inhalation, while Okeshuku Edwards, male, 6, was sent to St. Barnabas Burn Center. Young Okeshuku is still in critical condition and is presently at Children's Specialized Hospital, Mountsinville.

Scariest still, stated LaRiccia, was the frightening similarities in the fires that occurred in the early morning hours three days later. On Tuesday, December 19, police and firemen were called to the scene of the Jinks/Nelson two family home, which was half in flames with two children trapped on the second floor. According to the police press release, "preliminary investigation indicates the blaze may have been caused by a gas stove igniting other objects in the kitchen."

Upon smelling smoke, one of the two female adults in the house went downstairs to check on the cause. Seeing the flames, the mother called for her husband, and both of their children.

See STOVES/page 8



Don and Lanetta Lyons

New postcard stamp of Ernest E. Just

## That one man can do Honoring Dr. Ernest Everett Just

by Don Lyons

On a quiet Sunday morning in 1984, Don Lyons began his final weekly browse of the New York Times Book Review section. One review caught his eye: Kenneth Manning's *The Life of Ernest Everett Just*. A history enthusiast and collector of African-American trivia, Don called the local bookstore to reserve a copy.

He was riveted to each page as he read with incredulity the many accomplishments of Ernest Everett Just, a renowned cell biologist, scholar, researcher, teacher, and humanitarian. Don found Just's achievements singular, particularly during times that were so unfavorable for African-Americans.

Born in 1883, in Charleston, South Carolina, Just completed high school at age 17 and was sent north for further schooling. He graduated as valedictorian of his 1903 class at New Hampshire's Kimball Union Academy and continued his education at Dartmouth College. At Dartmouth, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was the only student in his 1907 class to graduate magna cum laude.

In 1912, Just became head of the Biology Department at Howard University. He headed Howard's Department of Physiology and was faculty member of the School of Medicine. In 1916, Just received his Ph.D. in Zoology, magna cum laude, from the University of Chicago.

For 20 years, Dr. Just was affiliated with the Marine Biological Laboratory in Cape Cod where he formulated new concepts of cell life and metabolism, and initiated pioneer investigations of egg fertilization. While there, he studied and experimented with the reproductive cells of marine animals. He believed that an understanding of the functions of normal and abnormal cells would provide the scientific knowledge to treat cancer, leukemia, sickle cell anemia and other diseases involving abnormal cell life. Just's pioneering research and concepts were not limited to the United States. He was known internationally because of his studies and research at the Stazione Zoologica in Italy, the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut in Germany, and the Station Biologique in France. Just's accomplishments have been reaching and remain the basis of today's scientific research in a variety of life science areas.

Dr. Just pioneered in designing techniques for collecting eggs and sperm cells, and laboratory methods of working with cells. He became an authority on identification procedures to assure that cells used in experiments were normal, healthy cells. In 1924, Dr. Just co-authored the textbook, *General Cytology*. In 1939, he authored two books, *Basic Methods for Experiments on Eggs of Marine Animals* and *The Biology of Cell Surface*. Dr. Just was a contributing editor to various scientific journals and published over sixty research papers in leading biological journals. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and was recognized by his colleagues for his important contributions to biomedical sciences by being elected an AAAS Fellow in 1920. At the age of 31, Dr. Just was awarded the prestigious NAACP Spingarn Medal, an honor bestowed upon other greats much later in life.

Dr. E.E. Just died in East Orange, New Jersey on October 27, 1941. Few Americans revolutionized man's thinking through science like Dr. Just. He strove to prove himself a man in search of truth through science. In doing so, he revolutionized our thinking about the nature of living substances.

Don was overwhelmed after completing the book. This was powerful information. How could this man have existed without his name and accomplishments earning even a small mention in basic American biographies? What homage could be paid to such

See JUST/page 2

## Pastor Henry remembered

by Kelly Howard



Reverend Jerry Willis Henry

PLAINFIELD—Reverend Jerry Willis Henry, the dedicated minister of Shiloh Baptist Church since 1977, passed away on December 20, suffering from a massive heart attack. One of the 1,000 strong congregation were joined by clergy from across the nation to pay tribute and say goodbye to the well loved and respected minister at two memorial services.

Rev. Henry, believing that a daily intake of the Word of God brings about change in the lives of His people, set out to help provide that intake through a unique ministry at Shiloh. And through special ministries for

the youth, elderly, married, single and new members, Shiloh became a "bible believing, bible teaching Church."

Upon smelling smoke, one of the two female adults in the house went downstairs to check on the cause. Seeing the flames, the mother called for her husband, and both of their children.

Utilizing his managerial skills, Rev. Henry worked hard on a number of large projects for New Light Baptist Church in Detroit. He later moved on to accept the call to pastor the St. Stephen Baptist Church in Pontiac, while still employed at and in 1977 the Lord moved him to Plainfield, New Jersey to the Shiloh Baptist Church. This is where the love story between pastor and pew began.

With plans leading the Shiloh Church family into the ground breaking for a multi-million dollar, multi-faceted building program, Rev. Henry left a great legacy to his church and his loving wife, Pamela E. Henry; daughter, Agire M. Henry; and large

See HENRY/page 2

## PEOPLE

## King

Continued from page 1

Guest speakers include Melissa Hollaway, councilperson; and Tyrone Reynolds, founder of the Unity Alliance Coalition. Performances will be by Studio 676 Youth Orchestra and the Mohammed Ball Jazz Band. Sponsored by the Community Awareness Series of the Jersey City Public Library. For more information call 201-547-6907.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1996

**PLAINFIELD**—The Mohawk Lodge #307 and Mohawk Lodge #191 presents "A New Light For An Old Dream" at the Mt. Zion AME Church, 525 W. 4th Street at 4 p.m. The proceeds are to benefit the Plainfield Shelter.

**PLAINFIELD**—The first Unitarian Society of Plainfield presents an open forum, "The Future Urgency of Now!" to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 10 a.m. The admission is free.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 1996

**ASBURY PARK**—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be remembered at the 11 a.m. service at Bethel AME Church, 1001 Cookman Avenue in Asbury Park. Julia Grant-Thomas, wife of the pastor, Rev. Oliver Thomas, Jr., will be the speaker for this service. Mrs. Thomas, who taught African history and culture for 31 years, retired in 1991. She will speak on "Making the Dream Come True." All are welcome to this service. For information call the parsonage (908)502-0852.

**EAST ORANGE**—Mayor Cardell Cooper and the East Orange City Council present "A Musical Tribute," commemorating the birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event will be held at Calvary Roseville United Methodist Church, 400 Dr. M.L.K., Jr. Blvd. at 4:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call the Department of Policy, Planning & Development at 201-256-5122.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1996

**PLAINFIELD**—From 9:00 a.m. until noon, The Frontiers International presents their 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast at the PHS cafeteria (Kenyon Avenue entrance). Guest speaker for the occasion is Dr. Larry Laverett, Superintendent of Plainfield's schools. General admission is \$15.00, \$12.00 for students and seniors.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, cable TV's Lifetime Channel will premiere an original movie, "Sophie

See KING/page 3

## Help for families



**NEWARK**—Crucial issues facing American families in the 90's will be examined by "Families in Focus," a CAUCUS: NEW JERSEY special series. CAUCUS: Emmy-award winning host, Steve Adubato, (r) will moderate the discussion with experts and families like Dorothy Wallace (above with children). "Families in Focus" is a production of Caucus Educational Corporation and the Association for children of New Jersey.

## Giblin Association salutes community service



**NEWARK**—Pictured (l-r) George F. Semonet, president of The Giblin Association; Carole Graves, Essex County Register; Eugene C. Campbell, 1995 Honoree; Thomas P. Giblin, Standard-Bearer, The Giblin Association.



**NEWARK**—Pictured (l-r) Thomas P. Giblin, Standard-Bearer, The Giblin Association; Dorothea Lee of Newark, 1995 Honoree; Congressman Donald M. Payne, of the 10th Congressional District.

## County honors juvenile officer Phillips



**ELIZABETH**—Union County Freeholder Henry W. Kurz (left) presented a resolution to Keith Phillips of Plainfield, honoring him for being named Union County Juvenile Detention Officer of the Year by the New Jersey Juvenile Detention Association.

Keith started working for the County in 1980, first in the Probation Department and then at the Dube Children's Shelter at the old Runnels Hospital, before coming to our George W. Herlich Juvenile Detention Center here in Elizabeth," said Freeholder Kurz. "We are all very proud of Keith, whose dedication to the care and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders has earned him this award."

## County Freeholders re-appoint Schmidt



## The season of giving continues



**NORTH PLAINFIELD**—The Holidays may be over but the spirit of giving continues with donations made by Fabric Land in North Plainfield to two worthwhile organizations: the 4H Club of Somerset County and the Boy Scouts of North Plainfield. Pictured (l-r) Fabric Land's asst. store manager, Ken Biagard loads up 4H Club member, 11 year old, Michelle Weeks of Raritan and 4H Club Leader Pat Berglund with polar fleece to make coats for the homeless.

## Legacy

Continued from page 1

civil rights movement. People were cursed at, spat upon and beaten and Dr. King himself was arrested a number of times. After years of struggle, the movement received its just due. On that eventful day of August 28, 1963, his vision for a world where people are judged by the "content of their character, rather than by the color of their skin." In 1968, King began to organize a "Poor People's Campaign" and plan a march to Washing-

ton, D.C. He was murdered that same year.

For his work in the civil rights movement, his vision and his tenacity, we celebrate his birthday. It took a long time to make this a federal holiday, and there are still a few states that don't observe it as such. We should use the day to learn more about him, the civil rights movement and to give thanks to a man who triumphed over racism and fought for human rights.

## Henry

Continued from page 1

loving family.

Through song and word, the love and respect for this great minister poured out filling the sanctuary and overflowing to the basement room where the services were televised. As the many speakers paid tribute and voices were raised in union to sing praise to the honored gentleman, tears and laughter mixed together in bitter-sweet memory of Pastor Henry.

## Just

Continued from page 1

paid for an Ernest Everett Just U.S. postage stamp?

On January 28, 1991, Congressman Donald Payne of New Jersey read Don's request into the Congressional Record. So, began the innumerable telephone calls and constant letter writing to congressmen, senators, Nobel laureates in science, universities and colleges, science-related organizations and institutions, anyone who could help with the massive undertaking. As the letters mounted in the office of the U.S. Stamp Advisory Committee, Don watched for the annual stamp announcements in the local newspaper.

Don continued talking to family and friends about E. E. Just until late 1992. In a casual conversation with James Hunter, an initiate of an African-American fraternity, Don discovered that Just was a co-founder of Omega Psi Phi. Although Don had encountered this information in the book, it simply had not registered. With the assistance of Felix Minkus, the bookless of the Plainfield, New Jersey chapter of the Omegas, Don contacted the national office in Washington, D.C.

In 1994, Omega Psi Phi invited Don to their 68th Grand Conclave in Cleveland, Ohio to gain further support for the stamp and witness the issuance of an E.E. Just limited edition U.S. post card. Energized by the mammoth letter writing campaign and clout of the Omegas, Don persisted in contacting the governor of South Carolina and Just family members. Senators Hollings and Thurmond of South Carolina have given their support early in the campaign.

On a Wednesday morning in early November, 1995, the words filtered over the telephone that the U.S. Stamp Advisory Committee had approved the Ernest Everett Just stamp. The stamp would be unveiled at Howard University, and issued on February 1, 1996.

Elation, followed by a calm satisfaction, characterized Don's response as he realized that his efforts had finally come to fruition. He recalled the words of Frank Lillie, one of Just's benefactors:

"In Europe (Just) was received with universal kindness, and made to feel at home in every way; he did not experience social discrimination on account of his race... That a man of his ability, scientific devotion, and of such strong personal loyalties as he gave and received should have been warped in the land of his birth must remain a matter for regret."

Don had accomplished his goal. Ernest Everett Just would become part of the daily lives of Americans as they posted letters across the United States. At the very least, Just's name would be recognized by millions of ordinary citizens. All Americans could walk tall knowing that Ernest Everett Just had finally received some justice in America.

Don Lyons is vice-president of LANE ONE, Inc., a multi-ethnic management consulting firm located in East Brunswick, New Jersey. Don and his wife, Lanetta, provide lectures, training, and consultation in a variety of areas, including total quality management, motivation, and archival research. LANE ONE financed Don's campaign for recognition of Ernest Just from its early conception and coordination to the recent U.S. stamp approval. Don and Lanetta strongly believe in positive role models for all Americans. Their company, LANE ONE, keeps history alive through oratory, exhibits, and a recent game called Diversity and Difference. Through LANE ONE, Don and Lanetta not only recount history, they make it.

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## NATION

## Chicago group fights fascists in Ethiopia

Special to NNPA

After working two years to resurrect the issue of fascist Italian war crimes in Ethiopia between 1935-1941, the Chicago-based Ethiopian Holocaust Remembrance Committee ("EHRC") has attracted the attention and support of world renowned Ethiopian nationals, scholars, patriots, and educators and other friends of Ethiopia. The purpose of the EHRC is to commemorate and memorialize the victims and survivors of the Ethiopian Holocaust and to reopen and address the issue on the floor of the world community.

The EHRC's international Board of Advisors include: Dr. Richard Pankhurst, Ethiopia; Lij. Zaude Hailemariam, Sweden; Dr. Getachew Haile, Minnesota; Dr. Assefaw Kebede, Florida; Dr. Erku Yimmer, Dr. Jerry Muhammad, and newspaper publisher Nathaniel Clay all from Chicago; Rabbi Hailu Paria of New York, Dr. Del Boca, Italy, and Tesfa Selassie of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The committee chairman is native Chicagoan and community activist Imani Nyah. Abraham Alemu, an Ethiopian national and thirteen year

Chicago resident, is president. Nyah and Alemu established the Committee in 1993 after learning that the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. refused to include the Ethiopian Holocaust in any of the museum's exhibits. Even though Mussolini's mass extermination campaign and "civilizing mission" called for extensive use of poisonous gas and other heinous atrocities—activities that were blessed by Pope Pious XI—fascist war crimes in Ethiopia have never been officially acknowledged nor addressed by either the War Crimes Commission, the World Court or the United Nations as were the Nazis, who were tried and convicted of war crimes against Jews and northern Europeans at the Nuremberg Trials.

While many people feel that the Jewish Holocaust and the dropping of the Atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the only two horrific atrocities of the 20th century, the Ethiopian Holocaust equaled Jewish and Japanese atrocities. Even though Mussolini stockpiled hundreds of thousands of weapons, including poisonous gas, for years in preparation of his surprise unprovoked attack upon

defenseless Ethiopia, the League of Nations, of which Ethiopia was a member, violated its collectively security covenant by refusing to halt Italian aggression, choosing instead to impose sanctions prohibiting the sale of arms to Italy, as well as Ethiopia—a well-planned strategy that gave Italy the full military advantage while leaving Ethiopia totally defenseless and unprepared for war. Ethiopia had no weapon-manufacturing plants and the country's existing weaponry was more than 40 years old, with little in reserve. The destruction of the ancient Judahic monarchy, representing the 3,000 year unbroken "Mojomonic line, and the colonizing of Ethiopia was carried out by Mussolini to avenge Italian losses at the Battle of Adowa in 1896, where Italy suffered heavy casualties in its first failed attempt to colonize Ethiopia, much to Italian embarrassment.

Once known as the "Garden of Eden" and Kush in the days of ancient Egypt, Ethiopia was also called Judah in Biblical times. The sacred "Land of the Gods," has a documented history that predates the Biblical Flood. Contrary to what European and Western Bible scholars would

have us believe, Judah (Ethiopia) did not cease to exist in 500 A.D. Moreover, The Throne of King David (Acts 2:30), The Ark of the Covenant, the Scepter, the Crown, and the divine royal titles "King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah" (Rev. 19:11) are all indigenous to Judah (Ethiopia), not Israel or the Vatican. Mussolini and Pope Pious XI were not oblivious to the spiritual history of Ethiopia. In fact, the international press covered the coronation of the "King of Kings" on November 2, 1930, when Haile Selassie I became the 225th King of Ethiopia to inherit King David's throne.

The Ethiopian Holocaust Remembrance Committee has constructed a "mini-museum exhibit" as an informational fundraising tool that includes a slide and video presentation and a one hour lecture, by historian Imani Nyah. The exhibit is available to museums, colleges, and universities for a nominal fee.

For more information on the Ethiopian Holocaust, please contact Imani Nyah or Abraham Alemu of ROOTS International Communications at 312-752-1071.

## King

Continued from page 3

and the Moonhanger." Starring Lynn Whitfield, Patricia Richardson, Ja'Net Duques and Jason Bernard, the drama will be seen from 8-10 p.m. This original story is about the wife of a Ku Klux Klan leader who must choose between her husband and her loving and loyal housekeeper.

BROOKLYN, NY—At 10:30 a.m., Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden and the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) present a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Come Share the Dream." Guests include Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Rudolph Crew, Chancellor of the NYC Board of Education, and the internationally acclaimed singer, Odette. Tickets are free on a first-come, first-served basis. The BAM Opera House is located at 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. For further information call 718-636-4100.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1996

NEWARK—The Newark-North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen will sponsor the Annual Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. birthday celebration and observance at 11:00 a.m. at St. Luke A.M.E. Church, 146 Clinton Avenue, Newark, of which Reverend John G. Ragin is pastor. Reverend Jerry Sander, pastor of Fountain Baptist Church, Summit, NJ, is the speaker for the occasion. Parking is available.

See KING/page 6

National News  
at a glanceBLACKS IN  
GOVERNMENT BLAST  
GOVERNMENT STUDY

Hundreds of thousands of federal workers are paid more than their job descriptions say they are worth. Minority workers are more likely to benefit from these pay distortions than white workers, say auditors from the General Accounting Office (GAO). But Oscar Eason, a president of Blacks in Government (BIG), says the study "lies in the face of reality." African Americans, at 16.7 percent of the federal workforce, occupy 22 percent of the GS-11 to GS-13 jobs, 6 percent of the GS-14-15, and about 5 percent of the SES jobs. The average grade of white federal workers is at 9.6, but for African Americans it's at 7.6.

CHRYSLER SUED FOR  
ALLEGED RACIAL BIAS

The Chrysler Corp. has recently joined several other consumer-products organizations that blacks are alleging discriminate against them. Two black ex-Chrysler dealers are saying that the company's discriminatory practices forced them out of business. One, Toney Tucker, a former Maryland auto dealer, filed a \$100 million lawsuit in U.S. District Court alleging the company put him out of business because he was black. He, and Paul Hobbs, who owned two Chrysler dealerships in California, charged that Chrysler practices racial discrimination in paying its dealership ranks by denying inventory loans to black dealers and by refusing to finance minority customers. In a number of cases, Chrysler's finance arm, Chrysler Credit Corp., has denied loans to blacks shopping at black dealerships, but then approved credit for the same customers when they shopped at white-owned dealerships, Tucker said. "All I want is justice. Chrysler was wrong on this. They treated us differently then they treated white dealerships that had the same credit profile as ours," Tucker says.

GROUP WANTS ELIJAH  
MUHAMMAD'S  
LIKENESS ON U.S.  
POSTAGE STAMP

Tampa Florida's Sentinel reports that the National Slavery Reparation Committee, an organization founded by Marzouq Al-Hakim, has prepared a proposal to the United States Postal Service requesting it commemorate a stamp in honor of late Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad, who died in 1975. Muhammad—who has been succeeded by both Minister Louis Farrakhan, in a revamped version of the Nation, and Muhammad's son Wallace, in a multicultural Muslim organization—led the Nation for 45 years. Al-Hakim says he is requesting the commemorative stamp as a matter of course and right. "He says: 'The Honorable Elijah Muhammad is well loved by black people and is one of our great leaders rooted in the history of this country.'"

INDIANAPOLIS  
RECORDER REACHES  
100

"I feel certain that when George P. Stewart started this publication as a church bulletin in 1935, he could not have imagined that it would evolve to the four-section, multi-color edition of today," said current publisher William G. Mays as the Indianapolis Recorder reached its 100th year of publishing in December. Among the "talismans" of the Recorder is William J. Raspberry, who is a Pulitzer-Prize winning Washington Post columnist and member of the Pulitzer Prize board.

IS HOLLYWOOD  
NARROW-MINDED ON  
RACE ISSUES?

According to the New York Daily Challenge, actor James Earl Jones says Hollywood has a difficult time portraying apartheid from a black point of view, but that his new film, "Cry, The Beloved Country," is a

See NATIONAL NEWS/page 6

## Question:

How did over a million men get to the Million Man March?

The ups and downs of politics in Essex County... As Commas see it... Opinion page A-4

## CITY NEWS

## 1.2 MILLION MARCH



NY Cotton Exchange moves to Jersey City

Poll shows 61 percent of New Jersey residents feel threatened by violence

Celebrate a week without violence

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## EDITORIAL

## Blood and ballots

On the first Tuesday in November we will celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a manner most fitting a man who dedicated his life to doing. A man who decided that the means for redressing the wrongs done to his people was provided for by the Constitution of the United States.

As a citizen of this country he would be recognized as an equal. He and his people would be allowed to attend school where they wanted, they would live where they wanted, and that they were endowed with certain inalienable rights that the government was going to insure. Martin's hero, Mohandas Gandhi, showed him that non-violence was the most powerful weapon the world had known. Gandhi had brought the British Empire to its knees by sitting down. Martin would do the same.

Every writer and speaker addressing the life of Dr. King will deal with most of the familiar aspects of his struggle, but they are not likely to mention the blood he shed so that they could stand in the voting booth.

If Martin were resurrected today and read the newspapers, how he would feel about his legacy? The city of Plainfield has 16,000 voters and only 6,000 cast ballots in the last mayoral election. 64.5 percent of The Queen City's population is black. The numbers in other cities are about the same. We have the power and we are not using it. A law of physics tells us that something in motion will stay that way unless acted upon by an outside force.

Dr. King secured for us the power of the ballot. He showed us that we have the power to organize, to force issues and to force issues. If we don't vote then we can't complain; he died in vain.

by Connie Woodruff

What's with New Jersey officials who seem to think the only qualified folks to fill high-profile, high-salaried jobs in the state are "carpetbaggers" with little or no knowledge about the territory and people they have been selected to service.

The state-operated Newark school district has selected Joseph Placide of Brooklyn as the new public information officer. It is ludicrous to think Mr. Placide, a former member of Mayor Dinkins' administration will be effective any time soon as the chief spokesman for the district. Newark schools are still messy and the district is a snakepit for unsuspecting strangers. According to sources at the Board of Ed., the new spokesman has promised to carry on a dialogue with parents, the media, teachers, community leaders and others who interact directly and indirectly with the system.

There is a growing problem of unemployment with the state and Essex County are to be believed that charity couldn't begin at home. It is possible that out of thousands targeted for the corporate axe, there was not one New Jersey resident qualified enough to be

a \$77,000 a year "communicator." It really doesn't matter whether or not the final decision on who to hire rested with Education Commissioner Lou Kighelley or Dr. Beverly Hall. Either or both of them should be extremely sensitive on the issue of employment — especially of staff expected to interact with a public not totally satisfied with a state takeover.

Because Placide served as director of African American Affairs officer for the New York City Department of Transportation and a specialist in conflict resolution and mediation for the city's Human Rights Commission, hardly makes him a cut above some of the local folks who have been working with and for the Newark community all their lives. It is possible that since Dr. Hall is a New Yorker she may be more comfortable with a Brooklynite? It is also possible that because Placide once helped start the Newark training program for the

Brooklyn youth that he had a slight edge over other competitors. We do know Beverly Hall has placed computer technology high on her list of priorities. It is rumored that Placide hopes to play a key role in this area.

According to Hall's deputy su-

perintendent, approximately 150 persons applied for the job of public information officer and about 30 made it to interviews. The deputy, Beatrice Collymore, was a member of the screening committee that interviewed Placide who was notified by letter in mid-December that he got the job. No wonder some skeptics are predicting, "It's déjà vu all over again. New players but the game's the same." But don't they say the more things change the more they are the same?

Dr. Hall needs to get a grip before the "community" turns on her.

In Trenton, the Assembly has voted Essex Assemblywoman Niala Giddens Democratic whip for the '95-'96 legislative session. Hopefully she won't get carried away as other who have been in that position.

///

Nobody has been paying much attention to the fact that unemployed Essex County (7.5 percent) is the highest in the state. Probably because when one thinks of Essex one thinks "Newark" where the predominant ethnic group is black and African-Americans and the most likely to be out of a job.

But now we'll have to take a good

hard look at the numbers since county Executive Jim Treflinger has resurrected a resolution passed by the Freeholder board in 1978 requiring county employees to live within the borders of Essex County. Like many resolutions passed by county and municipal governments, the residency requirement has never been enforced enough to upset anybody, especially the politically correct (a possible 600) who call other counties home. If Treflinger's edict is upheld it will affect people hired after 1978. The residency requirement is included in an employment handbook and the county's manual on policy and procedure. The resolution does not affect workers at the county college and the vocational schools which receive state and federal funding. In addition, a state statute exempts all enforcement officers as sworn law enforcement personnel.

There are a few other counties with residency requirements.

///

Is it possible that the state is about to take over the governing of

See A5 | SEE IT page 8

FROM CAPITOL HILL

## Holy Day spirit, community spirit

by Askia Muhammad

Call it the spirit of the Million Man March, whatever. Crime decreased dramatically in American in 1995. That means doubly good news in the Black community, because we are disproportionately victims of violent crimes, and we are disproportionately convicted and incarcerated for committing crimes.

The statistics won't mean much to the rhetoric of Republican lawmakers like Reps. New Gingrich (R-GA), Dick Armey (R-TX), John Kasich (R-OH), Peter King (R-NY), or Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX). They seem to take special delight when African Americans can be made to suffer from one government dictum or another.

Still, there seems to be a new spirit in the land. Nowhere has the effect been more noticeable than in New York—the original "home" of the "clonchore"—where crime reports (despite a few spectacular instances lately which have received national attention) decreased by more than 30 percent below 1994 figures.

Combine this tendency to be less violent toward one another, with the overall conservative financial spending pattern nationwide, with several overt boycotts of certain manufacturers (i.e. Eddie Bauer), with other "conscious spending campaigns" led by the NAACP in several regions, with an increased awareness and observance of Kwanzaa by African Americans nationwide, and I think that amounts to a trend to transform the traditional holiday "Economic Season," into a truly spiritual Holy Day Season.

It's important that we took the commercial aspect out of the year-end season of reflection and introspection—first—in order for us to derive the true

benefits of the process. As Kwanzaa has grown in popularity, some of its early adherents have feared that it was going to give of Santa Claus—to the shopping mall. But it feels to me that most new converts to Kwanzaa are seeking heartfelt connections rather than pocketbook relations.

And then something amazing happens. No sooner have we finished the weeklong (Dec. 26-Jan. 1) season of fasting and contemplation of Kwanzaa's "Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles) of Umoja (Unity), Kujikujua (Self-Determination), Ujamaa (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kumbuka (Creativity), and Imani (Faith), than the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday is upon us on Jan. 15.

Try as they might, exploiters have not been able to turn the spirit of Dr. King, who struggled and sacrificed his life for Peace and Equality, into an image for commercial purposes. And then, no sooner has the entire nation—not just New York—finished observing the King Holiday, when February, Black History Month, is upon us.

Contrary to the views of the cynics who grumble: "They give Black folks the shortest month of the year to celebrate." OUR SEASON actually begins on Dec. 26, and continues through the end

of February. And this year is a "lean year," February has only 28 days. Furthermore, "they" did not "give" us anything.

Black History Month began in 1920, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALAH), encouraged his Omega Psi Phi Fraternity brothers to establish a week to study and disseminate facts about Black life and history. It was first known as Negro Achievement Week, and was observed Feb. 7-11. By usage, the Black Studies Union and Black Studies movement of the 1970s expanded that tradition into a month-long observance. That Holy Month, like Kwanzaa, was TAKEN BY Black people, not given!

Similarly, the Dr. King Holiday, came after arduous struggle, led by Martin Luther King Jr. and others, and by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) in the suites on Capitol Hill, eventually requiring a reluctant Pres. Ronald Reagan who had publicly condemned Dr. King as a "Communist," and the proposed

Holiday in his honor—to sign it into law. Even recalcitrant states like Arizona, which refused to enact a state King Holiday law, were brought to heel by firm resolve and economic boycotts led by Blacks.

Which brings us to now, with plans to make the 1996 "Day of Atonement," a Million Man March on Washington, our Community Holy Season may now extend from Oct. 16 through the end of February.

## THE PASTORS' WORD

## A house is only as strong as its foundation

by Rev. Reginald T. Jackson &amp; Rev. Raiford S. Wheeler

The beginning of the new year has shown us that not even the holiday season can cause a change in the way government leaders conduct themselves and government business. For the new year sees our elected leaders renege the people they are supposed to be serving like they really don't matter.

In Washington our national leaders continue to play chicken while the resolution of thousands of federal employees are furloughed or work without getting paid. The government is closed down because the President and Congress cannot agree on a federal budget. Republicans want huge tax cuts which will primarily benefit the wealthy, while cutting Medicaid, Medicare, welfare, funds for the environment, eliminating tax credits for the working poor and

a host of other programs. The President wants smaller tax cuts and has set priorities he deems good for the nation. Both the President and Congress have agreed to try to balance the budget in seven years. Reaching this goal is what has caused the stalemate. Negotiations have been going for several days, but no resolution of the stalemate has been achieved.

Several times there have been reports that a deal was near, only to collapse. This is due to the rigid and inflexible position of newly elected House Republicans. They have made it clear that they will block any agreement that does not balance the budget in seven years on their terms. Some of these Republican freshmen are from New Jersey. They are Bill Martin, Frank Lofroni and Rodney Frelinghuysen. Also serving as a spokesman for the group of Republicans is Congressman Bob Franks of the 8th district.

What these Republicans are do-

ing is blackmail. They are holding the federal government hostage so that they can get their way. While they are blackmailing the government, millions upon millions of peoples lives are being disrupted and complicated. These federal workers have families and have to satisfy creditors and pay mortgages and bills. Most of these people are on two pay checks a month. They are not getting paid and their pay cannot stand going without getting paid. There are also millions of people who are too middle class or poor who depend on need government services in one way or another.

And while federal workers are not being paid and citizens are being inconvenienced or denied services, members of Congress are still being paid and traveling all over the world on political junkies. If they wanted to identify and show the nation they are really serious they would not accept their salaries until this dispute is resolved. After all, the tax dollars which

they say they are trying to protect are paying their salaries. Let the freshmen congressmen from New Jersey and Congressman Franks stand face to face with furloughed workers and give a personal explanation why they should be paid but not federal employees.

Many voters are beginning to realize that Congress is a much more take in 1994. They elected a group of congressmen who don't know that good leaders know how to compromise, still maintain principle, and do not ask others to do what they are unwilling to do.

Political leaders are more and more losing touch with the people they are elected to serve. As a result people have become more and more cynical and turned off with government. The longer this stalemate continues and elected leaders continue to treat citizens like subjects and things, the weaker the foundation becomes on which this nation was built.

## The state of King's dream in 1995

by Michael Blackmon

merely words, but a way of life for its

Then on a night in Tennessee, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was felled by an assassin's bullet. The freedom fighter that we had come to believe would march us to the Promised Land was gone. He had left us to complete his dream of what America should be. Now, 32 years later, we are asked to look at the state of his dream.

When I think of King's dream and look around America, I must report to you, my black brothers and sisters, we are just as far from the fulfillment of his Dream as we were the day he was called home to be with the Lord. Yes, we received many of the liberties and opportunities that Dr. King saw in his "Dream." But would he be proud of the way we have responded to them? I for one say no. In fact, I think we have let down Dr. King would be disappointed in the way we have handled our freedom. A freedom that came as a result of many marches, much struggle and of great sacrifice by a determined people.

I realize that each one of us as people have come a long way and made significant contributions to this great nation's progress. I realize that individuals have excelled to great heights on the ladder of success. I am proud to point out that we have had a black to space, one to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a black (female) has served as Surgeon General, two blacks have also served on the highest court of this nation, and we have had a black governor and a host of black mayors. I am proud to point out that we are well represented in both houses of government by blacks. Additionally, I am also delighted to announce that we have had two black men to run for president of the United States, Jesse L. Jackson and Douglas Wilder.

Even with all that we are still making gains at a horse and buggy's pace, while everybody else in America is moving at supersonic speed. Those few individual gains even add to the pain being felt by blacks, when

you consider our gains as a people in this country.

Prior to King's Dream, other people controlled our destiny. They controlled where we went, where we worked, where we worshipped, where we studied, where we received medical treatment, where we lived, and yes, where and with whom we played. During the time of their control, we cooperated with one another, shared with each other, corrected each other's children, looked out for each other's values, showed ourselves friendly toward one another and acted as though we loved each other. Those were the only freedoms that we enjoyed.

If Dr. King could come back today, he would see many of his people are still waiting for the 40 acres and the mule that were promised during liberation and Reconstruction.

Yes, I repeat that I must inform you, the dream of Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr. remains unfulfilled, but it is still alive and leaves much work for us to do. Let us unite in an effort to reawaken the conscience of the black community and return to principles that brought us to the gates of the Promised Land. Let us once again show love for our neighbors, and hear the infirmities and burdens of our brothers and sisters. Let us turn from our wicked ways and pray to our God in Heaven that He will heal our land where love will be bond as all. By doing that, we will do our part to keep King's dream alive until the Dream is fulfilled, and every vision is realized by all Americans. When we fulfill King's Dream, America will be a better place to live, work and play. Only then can America truly boast of being the home of the brave and the land of the free, where all citizens are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness!

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# YOUTH BEAT

## Adoption despite odds



NEW YORK—Headlines don't tell the whole story about adoption. Despite what talk shows and a scattering of high-profile legal cases would have you believe, the overwhelming majority of adoptions result in great benefits for both the child and the adopting parents.

Take the adoption of 4-week-old Cameron by Jane Otley. Ms. Otley

who lives in a suburban community near Hackensack, thought about becoming a single adoptive parent for several years before actually checking out how best to go about becoming an adoptive parent. She described a two-year period when she went back and forth about the decision. She weighed concerns like having a support system of friends and relatives.

Then one day, Jane said, "I'm going to do it because I know I can do it and my faith tells me this is the right thing for me to do."

Ms. Otley says "I always wanted to have children. I knew that if marriage didn't happen, I still wanted to be a parent. It is important to me to be able to nurture a child." Otley is particularly attuned to family issues since she is Manager of Diversity and Work and Family Program for a major company in Manhattan.

Adoptive parents experience all the initial anxieties of biological parents complete with learning the significance of a baby's cry, and still trying to get the chores done. However, as Jane says, "These things are minor when you compare them to the joy of holding your baby in your arms and watching him thrive."

The parent-to-be chose Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children, an agency licensed in New Jersey and New York because she had heard that single African-American parents would be welcomed. She attended the agency's information session. There she learned that a single adult or couple could become adoptive parents directly, without having to become a foster parent first. Finding out that there would not be a long wait for a baby, and in her case for the son she wanted, Jane decided to go through the process.

Other couples and single adults have followed Ms. Otley's path to the joys of parenthood. If you or someone you know would like more information, call Spence-Chapin at 201-275-1212 for a copy of the free booklet about African-American Infant Adoption.

### NEWARK FITNESS

The Newark Board of Ed will run a free, twelve-week teen/adult fitness program beginning Monday, January 8. For information call 201-733-7344.

## Teen arts tour county



Union County Freshholder Linda Lee Kelly, (l) with Plainfield resident/student Keith Washington and teacher June Brown of Centennial High School, Westfield at the opening reception of the 1995 Union County Teen Arts Touring Exhibit.

ELIZABETH—The Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Division of Parks and Recreation, announces that the

Plainfield Public Library at 8th & Park Avenues in Plainfield will host the Union County TEEN ARTS Touring Exhibit for the month of January.

The exhibit consists of 23 pieces of art selected from the 500 visual art works shown at the 1995 Union County TEEN ARTS Festival held in March at Union County College.

Linda Lee Kelly, member of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Advisory Board stated, "The students works displayed in the Teen Arts Exhibit are an important expression of their personal and cultural identity."

Major funding is also provided by the Friends of Teen Arts through a grant from the New Jersey State Department of Education, Union County schools and other private sources.

For information about the Union County Teen Arts Program contact the Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 24-52 Railway Avenue, Elizabeth, 908-558-2550. TDD users call 800-852-7899.

### Touch football classic at Giants' Stadium



EAST ORANGE—Otis Anderson was on hand at Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey in East Orange recently to help plan the TENTH ANNUAL TOUCH FOOTBALL CLASSIC to benefit CPNJ at GIANTS STADIUM and to visit one of its classrooms. He is pictured with: CPNJ students: Jonathan of Newark, Rebecca, Sauveurno and Filipe of Irvington and Shakeenah of East Orange.

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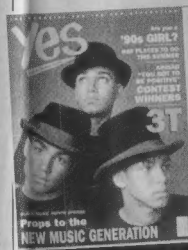
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# LIFESTYLES

## King

Continued from page 3

**MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1996**  
JERSEY CITY—The All Peoples Congress is sponsoring a program to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at 4:00 p.m., St. Michael's Methodist Church, 37 Virginia Avenue, Jersey City, NJ. The meeting is free but all donations are welcome. For information call the All Peoples Congress at 201-432-2338.

**RED BANK**—The Red Bank Senior Citizen's Center is hosting their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at 2:00 p.m., at United Methodist Church of Red Bank, 247 Broad Street, Red Bank. The event, sponsored by the Red Bank Senior Advisory Board and the Borough of Red Bank, will include speakers, Rev. Rowie, United Methodist; Rev. Harris, Pilgrim Baptist; Rev. Fuller, Union Baptist; Rev. Jackson, Juba Ministries; and Rev. Horne, St. Thomas Episcopal. There will also be singing by the Pilgrim Baptist Men's Choir and a light luncheon. The celebration is free to all. For more information contact Cynthia Webster, Senior Citizen's Center Director at 908-747-5204.

**JANUARY 17, 1996**  
**NEWARK**—The Newark, N.J. Jewish Black Churches, The County of Essex, The Essex County Bar Foundation, The Garden State Hispanic as well as the Asian-Pacific Bar Associations are presenting a program honoring the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The celebration will open with theatrical depictions performed by the Positive Impact Ensemble from the Rosa Parks Performing High School. Hon. James Hochberg, US Attorney, Hon. James Trullinger, Essex County Executive, Dr. Beverly Hall, State District Superintendent and Rev. Willie A. Simmons, Assistant Pastor of the First Corinthian Baptist Church will give commentaries. Musical renditions will be performed by Mary Denise La Mar. A wine and cheese reception will follow. The program will be held at Seton Hall University Law Center, Raymond Blvd., Newark, NJ from 6-8 p.m. For further information call 201-622-6207.

**UNION**—"Words of Elegant Wisdom: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." is a free staged reading with music will take place at Wilkins Theater, Kean College, Union, NJ at 7:30 p.m. This

See KING/page 8

## REVIEW:

# A breath of fresh air

by Kelly Howard

Inhale, exhale. With a long sigh of bated anticipation, *Waiting to Exhale* has taken the holiday movie season by storm. With a storm of praise, "you go girls!" and an opening weekend box office draw equal to the movies production cost, that is. And after a large number of negative forecasts about the book, the author, the movie, the stars and their "diva" behaviors, and most importantly the negative portrayal of African American men, these days seem to be raining sunshine.

Since the release of her third novel, *Waiting to Exhale*, Terry McMillan has endured complaint upon complaint for her not-so-glamorous view of black men. Yet in this

tale of four African American women, their friendships, and the ups-and-downs in their lives, McMillan has always insisted that the story is about the women and the choices they make, rather than the sometimes-negative people (i.e. black men) that they encounter.

With the movie *Waiting to Exhale*, McMillan's screenplay has opened opportunities for people to see what they may have missed in the reading. And though it has been dubbed the "black women's Thelma

and Louise," *Waiting to Exhale* has given both women and men quite a bit of insight into themselves and their relationships with one another, opening the lines of communications.

Starring Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett, Lela Rochon and Loretta Devine the movie chronicles the highs and lows of a year in the lives of Savannah, Bernadine, Robin and Gloria, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of these women, and the importance of their friendship. Supported on and off the screen with

directing from Forrest Whitaker and minor and/or unbilled performances from Gregory Hines, Oran Jones and Wesley Snipes, *Waiting to Exhale* dispels the "all men are dogs mentality," with a healthy dose of reality with superb storytelling and acting.

*Waiting to Exhale*, also lays to rest the thought that the only black movies that can be a box

office hit, are hoodlum and gangster films, by grossing over \$14 million in its first weekend, and to continually bring in more. After an all out press campaign of videos, interviews, preview specials, and an all female soundtrack, *Waiting to Exhale* has clearly proven to be worth holding ones breath for.



Director Forrest Whitaker, seen with Angela Bassett and Whitney Houston, on the set of *Waiting to Exhale*.

## Holmes in King tribute

**UNION**—A presentation with music accompanying the speeches and writings of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will take place at the Wilkins Theater, Kean College in Union, NJ on Wednesday, January 17, 1996 at 7:30 p.m.

The show, entitled "Words of Elegant Wisdom: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," is the collaborative effort of entertainer Clint Holmes and his wife Brenda, a former TV producer. The performance which is free and open to the public, will be sign interpreted and is wheel chair accessible.

NJ Secretary of State Lonna R. Hooks will serve as honorary chairperson and will give remarks prior to showtime. The program "will highlight the inspiring message of harmony espoused by King, focusing as well on the values shared by the African-American and Jewish communities," noted Rev. Leon Hines of Elizabeth NAACP of Elizabeth and Jack Weinschanker of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey. Other co-sponsors are Kean College, the Union County Human Relations Com-

mission, and the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Joining Holmes on-stage as readers will be Cantor Martha Novick of Temple Emanuel, Westfield, and Edward Pierson,



Clint Holmes

Elizabeth's world renowned opera singer. Other readers will be drawn from various Christian and Jewish organizations as well as the NAACP. Professional musical accompaniment will be furnished by Richard Rodriguez on percussion and Bill Payne on piano.

On February 14, the multi-talented Holmes will star in his own work, an autobiographical show called, "Comfortable Shoes." The world premiere is slated for the Paper Mill Playhouse in Milburn, NJ.

"Words of Wisdom," is supported in part by a grant from the New Jersey Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. The program is also supported by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs through a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the Union County Prosecutor's Office. For additional information please call 908-558-2550.

## Club Bené has FAITH



**SOUTH AMBOY**—Hot new singer/songwriter, Faith Evans, known to her legion of fans as simply FAITH will be appearing in concert at the Club Bené Dinner Theatre, located on Rt. 35 in Sayreville NJ, on Friday January 12, for one night only. FAITH will perform one show at 9:00 p.m. with an optional dinner being served at 7 p.m..

## Are you waiting to exhale?

Some call it a male-bashing movie, others say it's a film about black women telling it like it is. Any way that *Waiting to Exhale* is described, no one can deny that it has generated lots of controversy and talk. For once the lines of communications between black men and women are opened wide enough to allow for dialogue.

Discussions about the movie, men's feelings about women, women's feelings about men, their relationships and friendships have opened possibilities of insight for each other and themselves. When men and women are able to understand, respect and accept one another and the differences we have, only then can we live together in peace.

With hopes to help in the continuing the discussions started by *Waiting to Exhale*, The City News, asks "Are you waiting to exhale?" Comments on your feelings on the movie, male-female relationships, the male bashing stereotype, and other related topics are welcomed and should be sent to The City News - Exhale, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060, or called into 908-754-3400.

## Photographer Herb Way exhibits in Elizabeth



**ELIZABETH**—Photographs by artist Herb Way are on display in the Freeholders Meeting Room located in the Union County Administration Building in Elizabeth. The exhibit is open to the public through January 26, 1996 during regular business hours.

The exhibit, titled "Cape May Vignettes", features color photographs taken along the picturesque Southern New Jersey coast.

For more information on the exhibit, call 908-558-2550.

## Words of Elegant Wisdom

The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A Staged Reading with Music

Featuring Clint Holmes

Created and directed by Brenda Holmes

Wednesday, January 17, 1996

7:30 pm

Wilkins Theatre

Kean College of New Jersey

Union, NJ

For information call

908-558-2550

TTY 1 800 852-7999

**FREE ADMISSION**

Honorary Chair: Lonna R. Hooks,

Secretary of State

Co-sponsored by: African-American/Jewish Relations

Committee, Jewish Community Relations Council,

of the Jewish Federation of Central

New Jersey, Kean College of New Jersey,

The NAACP

of Elizabeth, Union County Human

Relations Commission.

Funded by: The Union County

Office of Cultural & Heritage

Affairs through a grant from the

New Jersey State Council on

the Arts, and The Union County

Prosecutor's Office.

Funding has been made

possible by The New Jersey

State Martin Luther King Jr.

Commission/Department

of State



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## Stove

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Crystal Nelson and her two sons, Jihad, 9, and Jahliah Span, 7; Cynthia Jinks and her eldest son Marcus, 12, escaped the burning building.

At this time it is not yet explained as to why Nakiyyah Jinks, female, 10, and Malcolm Jinks, male, 9, did not exit the home with the rest. Malcolm was pronounced dead from smoke inhalation by Muhlenberg Regional Medical Centers Emergency Room Physician at 1:55 a.m. Nakiyyah lingered in critical condition of burns and smoke inhalation, at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital until Wednesday afternoon.

Funeral services for the

Edwards children were held on December 23, while services for the Jinks children were held on December 26. Presently there are investigations being made into both incidents, but reports state there were no fire alarms in the Edwards home, and that there may or may not have been any in the Jinks/Nelson residence.

In both incidents, a lit stove and/or oven were being used to provide additional heat to the household. Deputy Fire Chief John Rieck said, "Using a stove

or oven for heating purposes is one of the most dangerous things that cause fires this time of year. I sympathize with their plight. I just wish they would find a better way of overcoming it."

During the cold weather months, the use of stoves and ovens for additional and/or temporary heating units is a leading cause in many fires and deaths. Other alternatives to handling this situation should be pursued, as well as learning and practicing fire prevention and safety.

## Fire Safety Tips

Never use stove/ovens as an additional or temporary heating unit. Stoves and ovens are not made to endure this kind of use and may breakdown, leading to loss of cooking abilities, gas leaks, and/or fires. Also the flames from a stove can serve as a dangerous attraction to children.

Never use a kerosene heater as an alternative heating unit. It is illegal to buy, own or use a kerosene heater in the city of Plainfield. Typing over of units or accidental brushes with clothing or blankets can lead to fires and/or injuries.

Never store combustibles near stoves or furnaces. Don't place boxed food goods in a cabinet or on a shelf above the stove. Leave at least a three foot clearance between your furnace and/or stove and items that could easily catch on fire, such as rags, newspapers, clothing, cardboard boxes, etc.

Don't overuse electrical outlets. One plug per wall unit, steer away from extension cords and multiple plug units. If you need to plug a large number of items in one area, purchase a surge strip with a power breaker.

Be cautious in utilizing candles. Place candles in proper containers and holders and up away

from children's reach. Always blow out candles before going to sleep or leaving the house.

Have smoke/fire detectors in your home or apartment. These should be at least one detector per floor, and for any bedroom that is more than 12 feet from a detector there should be more than one detector per floor. If you can not afford a smoke detector, Plainfield Fire Department will provide you with one, free of charge.

Keep your detectors in working condition. Replace your batteries at least twice a year (it's suggested you do so when you change your clocks in the spring and fall). There is a state law requiring a smoke detector inspection for the closing of a purchase sale of all one and two family homes. For multi family homes and apartment buildings there are inspections on smoke detector systems every year.

For more information on fire safety and prevention call your local fire prevention bureau or fire station. In Plainfield, Deputy Chief John Rieck, 908-753-3420; in Paterson, Chief Tice, 201-881-6715; in Jersey City, Captain Perno, 201-547-4243; in East Orange, Chief Lynn McDaniels, 201-266-5520; in Orange, Fire Inspectors, 201-266-4234; and in Newark, Fire Director Stanley J. Kosup, 201-733-7424.

## As I See It

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Ivington? Mayor Sara Bost declares this will not happen during her administration. Hopefully she is right. Ivington's decline did not start with Bost, however she was a member of the town council before becoming Mayor and her husband Fred was also a council member. Bost blames the administration of Mike Steele,

her immediate predecessor and nobody knows who Steele blames. But long time Ivington residents can trace the town's regression back several decades to the white flight to the suburbs.

Even when it doesn't have anything to do with their conduct in office, seems like Essex county politicians can't stay out of the legal limelight. Take the case of Freeholder Joseph Parlevocchio and his long time pal and crony Al Rossi. Their trial on charges they hid a secret ownership in a decrepit, vermin-infested building the Newark school board paid millions of dollars to lease as an elementary school in the North

Ward, opened in federal court this week.

A lot of Democrats are unhappy they've been asked to contribute to the Joseph C. Parlevocchio Legal Defense Fund. There's nothing illegal about the request but folks are a little tired of politicians who run afoul of the law expecting the underpaid and the unemployed to help them out with money to meet the expenses of a team of high-powered, expensive defense attorneys.

Parlevocchio and Rossi were school principals until last year. The freeholder was chief executive officer at Dayton St. School and Rossi had been principal of Project COED, a Newark vocational school.

## School Budget Committee Forming

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Public School District is soliciting for volunteers to serve on the Citizens' School Budget Advisory Committee (CSBAC). The advisory committee will review the proposed school

budget for 1996-97, and make recommendations to the board.

The first meeting will be January 11 at 7 p.m. in the conference room at Plainfield High School. For information call 908-753-3151.

## King

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program is sponsored by The African-American/Jewish Relations Committee, The NAACP of Elizabeth, The Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey, The Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. The Union County Human Relations Commission, The Union County Prosecutor's Office, and Kean College. Among the readers will be Carol Martha Novick of Temple Emanuel, Westfield, and renowned African-American opera singer, Edward Person, of Elizabeth. Directed by PBS producer Brenda Holmes, the free performance features the multi-talented Clint Holmes. "Words of Wisdom" is supported by The Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs through a grant from the NJ State Council on the Arts and the Union County Prosecutor's Office as well as the NJ State Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, Department of State. For additional information please call 908-556-2550.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1996  
NEWARK—City Hall's Division of Recreation/Cultural Affairs (DORCA) will sponsor its Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Sing in Praise of King." For additional information please call 201-733-6454.

JANUARY 24, 1996  
NEWARK—The R.E.A.L. Black Unity Inc. presents "The Battle Must Be Joined" with the Youth on Youth Coalition organizing local committee representatives. This will take place at the South Ward Civic Association (Little City Hall), 1089-1091 Bergen Street, Newark, NJ at 7:00 p.m. For more information and directions call 201-242-4912.



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